

SANDY

by ELENORE MEHERIN,
Author of "CHICKIE"

SANDY McNEIL, in love with life, married BEN MURILLO, a rich Italian, to escape her impoverished family. Sandy, who is a frequent visitor to the home of her uncle, who is a piano player, and her mother to take care of her. There she meets RAMON, who saves her life in the surf. On the same afternoon she deduces his love. Murillo says he will never let her go. JIMMY MOORE, cousin, tells Sandy love is everything. Murillo overtakes her as she goes to a fight with Ramon. He announces, unexpectedly, at a party she is giving for her friends. After the party he strikes her. She leaves his house and accepts the kindly attentions of Ramon, whose home she shares. She then accepts a position in the city and boards out, spending occasional weekends with Ramon. She is summoned home and she leaves Ramon, promising to marry him when she is free. She meets Murillo at her mother's home and tries to live with him. As she is going for her maid, she sees her husband sorting a pile of letters in the hall.

GO ON WITH THE STORY FROM HERE

Chapter LXX
She came in a little rush down the stairs. She went up to Ben Murillo and snatched the packet of letters from his astonished hands.

"Since when do you receive mail at this address?" She flung her head back, challenging him with scornful, furious eyes.

His sallow face reddened. Slowly he raised his lids, facing her with a malicious gleam. "You have things to conceal, my dear?"

"Whether I have things to conceal or flaunt is NOT and won't be any concern of yours!"

She now shuffled the letters hastily. Ramon would have received that first letter of hers about a letter of final parting. He would have had time to answer.

But there was no envelope addressed to Sandy. Because she was now violently excited, she stood there, passing the letters back and forth in her hands.

Murillo stooped down: "Are you disappointed, my dear?"

She bit her lips, put all the letters in the pocket of her sweater, shoved the hair from her forehead. "Yes—always—when I'm unlucky enough to encounter YOU!"

She walked quickly through the hall to the old back garden. The big white cat came up and rubbed her head against Sandy's leg. She made a spring, settling in Sandy's lap, pressing up and down with her front paws to make sure of a comfortable resting place.

Sandy pulled the cat's whiskers. "Lord, you old Moll, I envy you. Nothing to do but floze in the sun and bring forth your kittens year after year!"

She leaned against the red pepper tree, not feeling the traditional feathery of crimson berries. December now—Christmas coming. "He got the letter," she whispered. "He didn't answer. He won't answer."

She was exhausted with anxiety. "I can't help it! What can I do?"

Then she remembered the malicious light in Ben Murillo's eyes. He'd be glad to know she had something to conceal.

Her thoughts flowed absently. She was 19 again—blithe and careless—tilting her head back and waiting till Timmy kissed her. Then

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It was that sunny morning Ramon followed her. They stood here in the grapevines for a bright, ardent moment to laugh in each other's arms. Things start so gaily.

They end like this. She became burdened and chafing. Won't do any good to mourn about it! Worring won't stop him!

But she could scarcely wait till the next morning till the mail came. No letter came.

"I won't hear any more," she thought, feeling chilly and faint. "Lord, I wish it was ten years from now! Lord, I wish—I wish—"

That evening she went to a movie with May Arliss. All afternoon she had made plan after plan to end her uncertainty. She would go down to Los Angeles, call at his hotel—wait there and assure herself that he was safe.

But if he had carried out those threats he had sometimes made? What would she do then?

By evening she was distracted—unable to think clearly. She told herself: "Well, if he has, he has!" And she went swiftly down the block to May Arliss.

When May spoke she had to ask her to repeat. She did this again and again.

"What in the world is the matter with you, Sandy? Are you here or where?"

"At sixes and sevens, I guess." "Are you going back to your husband? Every one is asking."

"Then tell them for me that I'm not going back, now or later."

"A divorce?"

"He won't let me have it. I'll stay here as long as I'm needed. Afterwards I'm going to the city and work."

She couldn't follow the picture. She slumped low in the chair, now thinking of Ramon with a storm of resentment. Manly, wasn't it, to hold this threat of suicide over her? Beat her down with it. As though she could make the world over that he might be pleased!

Tears filled her eyes. In the darkness she let them fall.

When they came out from the movie, they found it raining, a damp, penetrating wind swooping wet paper up the street.

They took each other's arms, rushing along, their heads ducked. As they crossed the street, they bumped headlong against a man who came toward them from the opposite corner.

"Pardon me—my fault," he said, dodging his hit. Sandy stood frozen. It was Ramon.

He looked at her for a brief instant—went on.

"Stunning fellow," May whispered.

"I didn't notice." But Sandy knew that Ramon was following her. He was walking on the other side of the street and slowly—keeping a few paces behind. She began to laugh, unable to meet this sudden snapping of her tension.

"Come in. I'll get Chari to fix up a hot egg nog or something spicy."

"No—Alice will be tired. It's my turn now."

The moment May's door was closed, Sandy ran across the street and caught Ramon's arm.

"I'm glad—glad to see you."

He looked down at her in astonishment. "Why didn't you come last night? I waited till 1 o'clock."

"What are you talking about?" "Didn't you get my letter?"

"Yes—but you didn't say you were coming."

"Well, I wasn't until after I got that one from you—that one just after you got the ring . . . Lord, Sandy, you're not going to send me away like that? I had to see you after I got that letter."

She now looked at him. His face appeared sunken—it was colorless and wet.

He smiled at her. "So I came. Didn't I say I was coming? Didn't I tell you to meet me? I don't know what I wrote. I was beside myself."

She said puzzled: "No, you didn't say you were coming."

And she thought with a heavy, sickening pang: "He doesn't know what he's saying—what letter—what letter does he mean?"

They walked in a lonely block. Trees gre w at the curb. And all the houses were set far back, with shrubs at the garden. Ramon took her hands, turned her so that he could look in her face. "I had to see you, Sandy. Forgive me for this. I have the car. Will you ride with me?"

"Yes—but don't look so, Ramon. You frighten me."

"Don't be afraid. I'm not going to trouble you."

He kept smiling as he drove. He said, looking at her: "It's good to see you."

PERKINS VIRGINIA FINDS RASTUS AND THE "KID FROM SEATTLE" IN THE SAME RING TRYING TO END THE AGONY IN THE 1ST ROUND



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OUT OUR WAY—By WILLIAMS

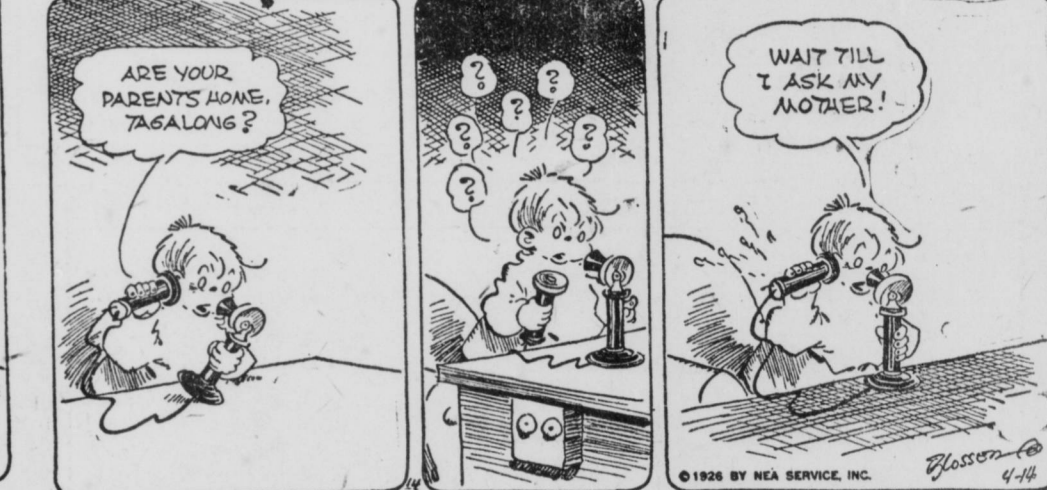


THE GOLD RUSH.

BOOTS AND HER BUDDIES—By MARTIN



FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS—By BLOSSER



HE IS CHAMPION EATER

Eighteen Hot Dogs Consumed at One Sitting.

By United Press
SPRINGFIELD, Ill., April 16.—The eating championship of Springfield is claimed by Raymond Brown, whose record at one sitting is eighteen "hot dog" sandwiches, three glasses of milk, one bowl of chili, one piece of pie and two bottles of soda.

SECURITIES INCREASED

\$11,164,305 Gain in State Last Year, Report Shows.

An increase of \$11,164,305 in securities deposited last year with the State is shown in a report today by State Insurance Commissioner Thomas S. McMurray Jr. Since 1919 the securities have grown from \$43,990,280 to \$55,154,585, McMurray pointed out. The increase indicates a growth in the State's prosperity, he said. Indiana laws require insurance companies to deposit with the State the full net cash value of outstanding policies. The deposits are increasing at the rate of \$700 a month.

G. M. WILLIAMS NAMED

Fletcher Savings and Trust Increases Directors.

The Fletcher Savings and Trust Company directors board was swelled

COMPENSATION ABROAD

Veterans in Many Lands Get Government Checks.

WASHINGTON, April 14.—Compensation for service in the World War is being paid to two thousand veterans or their beneficiaries in other lands.

In the Philippines the dependency list is largest, with 517 disability and 387 death cases. The Canal Zone is last, with only four disability cases.

In Porto Rico there are 330 disability and 323 death cases. Hawaii has seventy-three disability and thirty-five death cases.

The highest insurance money goes to Porto Rico where there are recorded 100 deaths.

On the Philippines the dependency list is largest, with 517 disability and 387 death cases. The Canal Zone is last, with only four disability cases.

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